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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its thirteenth session

SUMMARY

During its thirteenth session, the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) analysed issues related to the future functioning of INSTRAW. The Board also reviewed the work accomplished by the Institute during 1992 under the two major clusters of programmes. It reviewed its policy on focal points in order to develop a more effective interaction between INSTRAW and its focal points. Participation of the Institute in major events and conferences organized by the United Nations, such as the International Year of the Family and the International Conference on Population and Development, were also discussed. Cooperation with the regional commissions to define INSTRAW's substantive involvement in the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women was discussed.

The Board unanimously expressed its deep appreciation for the work undertaken by the Institute and the results achieved during the first year of the programme biennium 1992-1993. The Board recognized the crucial role of networking, particularly with the regional commissions, in the implementation and outreach of the Institute's work in order to empower and strengthen women's position. It also acknowledged the importance of INSTRAW focal points established in the different regions for extending the Institute's work at national and regional levels. To that end, a more effective interaction between INSTRAW and its focal points was to be developed.

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The Board recognized the important role that INSTRAW could play within its area of expertise in the observance of the International Year of the Family and the International Conference on Population and Development.

The Board considered it important that INSTRAW be involved substantively in the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women. It requested the Director to undertake consultation with the regional commissions to ascertain the collaboration which could be developed between the Institute and the regional commissions in the preparation of the Conference.

The Board welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General in his support for the advancement of women. It supported the intention and efforts of the Secretary-General towards streamlining and fully coordinating activities in the economic and social sectors. The Board stressed that careful consideration should be given to the creation of new and more efficient means of collaboration between the various bodies and agencies involved in women in development and recommended that a task force should be established.

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I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Decisions adopted by the Board

1. The decisions set out in the paragraphs below, which were adopted by the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) at its thirteenth session, are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

1. Matters related to the future functioning of INSTRAW

2. The Board received the message of the United Nations Secretary-General, transmitted by his representative, Ms. Chafika Meslem, on the report of the Special Adviser and Delegate of the Secretary-General on the Reform of the Economic and Social Sectors, with especial reference to the possible merging of the Institute and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and their future scope within the purview of the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

3. The members, *in officio*, of the Board, in closed meetings, analysed and discussed carefully the message of the Secretary-General.

4. The Board welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General in his support for the advancement of women. While supporting his intention and efforts for streamlining and fully coordinating activities in the economic and social sectors, in accordance with the guidelines of the General Assembly, the Board considered it important, and necessary, to give attention to resolution 26, adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year (Mexico City, June 1975), General Assembly resolutions 3520 (XXX) and 31/135, and relevant Economic and Social Council decisions, particularly 1998 (LX), 1978/25 and 1979/11, on which the establishment of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women was based and the guidelines and criteria for its structure and functioning were approved, "in order to provide training opportunities to enhance the effective participation of women".

5. On that basis, the Board recalled that the Institute was created as "an autonomous body under the auspices of the United Nations, funded through voluntary contributions" 1/ in order to fully "assist in the design of research for the monitoring of changes in the situation of women ..." "to develop, adapt and provide training programmes for women, in particular those of the developing countries". 2/

6. The Board also recalled that the Institute "should work in close collaboration with all relevant organizations within the United Nations system". 3/

7. On the other hand, the Board of Trustees took fully into account that UNIFEM was established as "a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme" whose activities

would "play an innovative and catalytic role in relation to the United Nations overall system of development cooperation". 4/

8. In the revision of the background documents and decisions referred above, the Board gave full attention to the possible implications of the proposal made by the Special Adviser and Delegate of the Secretary General, with particular regard to the level of voluntary financial contributions to the INSTRAW Trust Fund, dedicated to programmes for which the Institute had specifically mandated responsibility.

9. The Board paid particular importance to the provisions of its Statute (approved by the General Assembly in resolution 39/249) which set the objectives, functions and legal basis of INSTRAW, especially articles I, VII and VIII.

10. The Board of Trustees discussed the question of how work concerned with women in development could be strengthened in the United Nations context and receive maximum support in the future new structure.

11. The Board also expressed the opinion that maximum scope should be given to possibilities for efficient collaboration between various agencies committed to the advancement of women. They considered that it was of paramount importance for each separate agency to continue to fulfil its own mandate and preserve its own identity.

12. Therefore, careful consideration should be given to the creation of new and efficient ways of collaboration between the various agencies involved with women in development.

13. For that purpose, the INSTRAW Board of Trustees made to the Economic and Social Council the recommendations outlined below.

14. The Board recommended that the Secretary-General establish a task force composed of all members of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees and of the Consultative Committee of UNIFEM, with the assistance of a representative of the UNDP Administrator, the directors of the two entities, INSTRAW and UNIFEM, and all the agencies involved with women in development to study the available options, with special focus on his intention to review the activities and status of United Nations research and training organizations.

15. The task force would have as its mandate:

(a) To review each of the mandates of the two bodies in order to define the most efficient and effective models of cooperation for the benefit of women in development;

(b) To identify the specific functions of each body (INSTRAW and UNIFEM) and their relationship within the United Nations system;

(c) To ensure efficient utilization of available and future resources;

(d) To review organizational and locational matters and, if needed, to propose the necessary changes;

(e) To propose a concrete time schedule for the respective activities in the process of change.

2. Implementation of the work programme for 1992: progress report on the Institute

16. The Board expressed its deep appreciation to the Director and the staff of the Institute for the work undertaken and the results achieved during the first year of the programme biennium 1992-1993.

17. The Board noted with satisfaction the activities of the Institute carried out under the two major clusters of programmes, namely:

(a) Mainstreaming gender in development strategies and planning of programmes and projects;

(b) Making women visible and valuation of women's contribution to socio-economic development.

18. To better reflect the activities of the Institute, the Board agreed that the INSTRAW secretariat should prepare a summary report indicating the progress achieved in research and training over time, and an annual report that could be used for a wider audience. The structure of the summary report should be done according to the suggestions of the Board as reflected in its report.

19. The Board recognized the crucial role of networking, particularly with the regional commissions, in the implementation and outreach of the Institute's work in order to empower and strengthen the position of women.

3. INSTRAW focal points

20. The Board acknowledged the importance of INSTRAW focal points established in the different regions for extending the Institute's work at national and regional levels.

21. The Board agreed that in order to have more effective interaction between INSTRAW and its focal points, the terms of reference and the criteria for selection of focal points should be updated. It was recommended that the focal points be informed of the results of the sessions of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees.

22. The Board approved the nomination of two new focal points, the Network of Women in Development Agencies in the Netherlands and the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network, while deferring decision on a third nomination, pending information.

4. Activities relative to the International Year of the Family

23. The Board recognized the important role that INSTRAW could play in activities leading up to the observance of the International Year of the Family, thus ensuring that the important questions of gender, equality, power and responsibility within the family be central concerns.

5. INSTRAW attendance at the International Conference on Population and Development

24. The Board also agreed that INSTRAW should take part in the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo in 1994 with a substantive contribution in its area of expertise.

6. Activities related to the preparatory sessions of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995

25. The Board acknowledged the valuable contribution of the regional commissions to the work of INSTRAW.

26. The Board requested the Director to undertake consultation with the regional commissions to ascertain the collaboration which could be developed between the Institute and the regional commissions in the preparation of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

27. The Board considered it important that INSTRAW be involved substantively in the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

7. Other matters related to the Institute

28. The Board gave the Director the flexibility to readjust the Institute's current budget within the approved ceiling for 1992-1993 in order to provide for INSTRAW's substantive contribution and active participation at the regional preparatory meetings for the holding of the World Conference on Women.

II. MATTERS RELATED TO THE FUTURE FUNCTIONING OF INSTRAW

29. The elected members of the Board in a series of closed meetings analysed and discussed the proposal of the Special Adviser and Delegate of the Secretary-General on the Reform of the Economic and Social Sectors on the possible merger of the Institute and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and their future scope within the purview of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The conclusions of those meetings is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, paras. 2-15).

30. The ex-officio member of the Board representing the host country expressed her Government's deep concern over the possible relocation of INSTRAW. She

informed the Board that not only she as representative of the host country but also the Chancery had conveyed to the representative of the Secretary-General their preoccupation with such a possibility. She mentioned that although INSTRAW was not to assist local institutions or the Government in its work on behalf of women, women had ber fited from the Institute's presence, its research results and training activities. The Ins+itute had been an extremely positive influence for improving the status of women in the host country. She expressed her confidence that INSTRAW would continue its work for the advancement of the women of the world and the hope that that work continued to be done from the Dominican Republic.

31. The Director of INSTRAW stressed to Board members that the current restructuring of the United Nations system should be viewed from its positive perspective. In particular, she stressed that the Board members should recognize that the Secretary-General has been supportive of the recommendations laid down both by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, which specified targets for appointing women at senior levels of the United Nations system. That has been made evident by the Secretary-General s appointment of a number of women to important positions within the system and to his efforts to attain by 1995 the target of 50 per cent women and 50 per cent men in the Secretariat.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1992: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSTITUTE

32. In considering item 5 of its agenda, the Board had before it the following documents: "Implementation of the work programme for 1992: progress report on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW): report of the Director of the Institute" (INSTRAW/BT/1993/R.2), and "Financial situation of INSTRAW" (INSTRAW/BT/1993/CRP.1).

33. The Director of INSTRAW presented the document on implementation of the work programme for 1992. She briefly described the actions taken during 1992 for the implementation of the programme of work, as approved by the Board for the 1992-1993 biennium. She highlighted some of the salient results and outputs attained in the following areas:

(a) Women, environment and sustainable development;

(b) Women, water supply and sanitation;

(c) Women and new and renewable sources of energy;

(d) Mainstreaming gender into academic institutions;

(e) Training needs of women farmers in transitional Eastern European countries;

(f) Gender training;

(g) Appraisal and evaluation of development strategies and programmes for the maximum impact on women;

(h) Improving statistics and indicators on women;

(i) Methods for valuing the contributions of women, both paid and unpaid;

(j) Development of communications support material for women in development;

(k) Collaboration with United Nations agencies on women and drug abuse;

(l) Problems of elderly women;

(m) Internship programme.

34. She emphasized that in response to the Board's recommendation and in accordance with the proposals in the evaluation of the Institute commissioned by three Nordic donor countries, a sharper focus and substantive collaboration with the bodies and entities of the United Nations system, Governments and NGOs had been actively pursued and strengthened during the period under review. She also reported on the increase in contributions to the Trust Fund of INSTRAW, at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, which took place in New York in November 1992.

35. The Director expressed the Institute's appreciation for the continued support from the host country and the backstopping provided by the Executive Office of the Department for Development Support and Management Services.

36. The Board congratulated the Director and staff for the work undertaken and results achieved during the period under review.

37. In response to a Board member's query, the Director explained that while a wide number of issues relevant to women needed to be addressed, the Institute was making every effort to concentrate its programmes on selected major issues and themes. For instance, violence and prostitution were world-wide concerns, and while the Division for the Advancement of Women was mandated to carry on programmes in those areas, INSTRAW could envisage undertaking research on a particular aspect if requested to do so by the mandated United Nations entity.

38. The representative of the Secretary-General referred to the draft declaration on violence which was completed in September 1992 to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-seventh session and to the Economic and Social Council in 1993. She said that if the declaration was adopted, there would be an international definition of violence, including measures to combat it. She indicated that two priority topics would be addressed by the Commission at its session in 1994 - namely, under the general theme of peace, measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society, and under the theme of development, the situation of women in urban areas, focusing on population nutrition and health, including drug consumption and AIDS. She further said that on issues such as violence, there was urgent need to implement legislation to combat the problem by adopting specific measures.

39. The Board raised issues concerning the current structure of the progress report. It agreed to the following suggestions:

(a) Presentation of a complete overview of the Institute's programmes and activities, relating it to a continuity of actions, so that it becomes more informative for the new as well as old members of the Board;

(b) Indication of implementation status of the programmes over time;

(c) Provision of a list of unpublished working papers to be consulted upon request;

(d) Presentation of research, training and communication activities in separate sections;

(e) Listing of attendance by INSTRAW staff members at various meetings, seminars and workshops, with the background objectives, outcome and future implications for INSTRAW;

(f) Tabular presentation of research and training activities, including regional distribution.

40. Concerning the distribution of the progress report to donor countries and agencies, the Secretary of the Board pointed out that the document in its current form was a restricted document for examination by the Board and followed the same distribution sequence as the approved 1992-1993 programme budget of the Institute. For donors and a wider audience, the Board might wish to make suggestions for a different type of report or publication.

41. The ex-officio member of the Board from ESCAP pointed out that research and training activities should be reported on separately in view of the fact that INSTRAW's catalytical role in research on women in various areas was the lead in the United Nations system. He further pointed out that the autonomy of the Institute was reflected by its mode of operation - namely, collaborative arrangements which should be highlighted in the progress report.

42. The ex-officio member of the Board from ECLAC referred to the important coordinating role of INSTRAW within the United Nations system. She pointed out that INSTRAW was unique in its mode of operation since most of its activities were conducted in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and agencies. Furthermore, she said that the Institute's focal points, established world wide, were a distinctive way of cooperating with various countries. She also pointed out the Institute's direct cooperation with academic institutions world wide. She said that the training carried out by the Institute was at national, regional and international levels, while research in fields such as statistics and time-use studies was global and should be kept as separate items in the annual report to make it clearer.

43. The Director pointed out that while training seminars could be divided regionally, there would be difficulties in doing so for research, since the focus was on methodological development, which was not region-specific.

44. The Board sought clarification concerning the criteria being applied by INSTRAW for the selection of consultants. The Director and the Chief of Research and Training explained that a variety of criteria was resorted to, depending on the nature of activity and type of consultancy required. In

particular, the Director emphasized the importance of reviewing the work already done by the consultants as a way of assessing their competence and ability to perform. In practice, the Institute used a network of experts to identify potential consultants to work on a specific project. For new programme areas, if the Institute was not able to identify widely known experts, it depended on personal recommendations and the curriculum vitae of the candidates. The Board suggested that a roster of potential consultants be created.

45. The Board members expressed satisfaction on the organization and results of the interregional workshop on the role of women in environmentally sound and sustainable development, organized by INSTRAW and the Inter-agency Task Force on Women in Development of the former Secretariat Department of Economic and Social Development, in cooperation with the Science and Technology Commission of China and the All-China Women's Federation. They appreciated the prompt preparation of the project profiles prepared by INSTRAW and the Department as well as the proceedings of the workshop. The project profiles would be used for funding by donors, global environment facilities and other relevant institutions.

46. The Board Members reiterated the need to translate INSTRAW's modules on women, water supply and sanitation into Spanish for use in Spanish-speaking countries. To that end, the Director noted that support was currently being sought by the Institute both from the Government of Spain and UNICEF in Mexico. She also mentioned possible future collaboration between INSTRAW and WHO on the issue.

47. The Board members sought clarification on the progress of the project on the training needs of women farmers in transitional Eastern European countries, INSTRAW's participation in the project was clarified by the Director, the representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the ex-officio member from ECE. INSTRAW's current commitment did not go beyond the research component and the development of training materials. It was hoped that USAID and the United States Department of Agriculture would be responsible for the continuation of the project, particularly in providing financially for the training and exchange phase. The US$ 25,000 allocated by INSTRAW was not sufficient to complete the research phase and the development of training materials based on the research. Present indications were that an additional $10,000 would be needed to complete that phase of the project. The representative of IFAD, in her capacity as Washington liaison person for INSTRAW, was actively seeking funds to carry out the next phase of the project through the united States Department of Agriculture and other funding agencies.

48. With reference to the preparation of the subregional workshop on statistics and indicators on women for the francophone African countries, scheduled to take place in Morocco, the Vice-President of the Board informed the Board of the preliminary activities that had been undertaken. She stressed the need for other United Nations agencies to assist in carrying out the activity, particularly in providing additional funding. The workshop was tentatively scheduled to be held in the fall of 1993.

49. Referring to the work being implemented by INSTRAW in connection with the ILO meeting on labour statistics, the Director explained that INSTRAW continued to address issues concerning the revision of the International Classification of Status of Employment (ICSE) and the System of National Accounts within the

programme on methods for valuing the contribution of women, both paid and unpaid, which was the direct follow-up to the Institute programme on the informal sector.

50. Concerning the internship programme, a Board member asked whether the work performed by the interns had been evaluated. A number of Board members expressed satisfaction with INSTRAW's internship programme. The Director pointed out that, due to lack of space at its headquarters, the Institute was unable to receive more than one intern at a time. The Board sought information on the geographical distribution of interns and whether it could be a criterion for selection. It was pointed out that, since interns were provided at no cost to the Institute, the question of regional distribution was not applicable. It was suggested that possibilities for having universities fund interns should be explored.

51. The importance of networking was stressed by the Board in the implementation and outreach of the Institute's work. The cooperation and support of the regional commissions of the United Nations to various INSTRAW activities was underlined. The Director explained that all efforts were being made to strengthen the Institute's networking mode of operation. It was also pointed out that there was need to establish more sustained cooperation with the focal points of the donor countries.

52. The representative of IFAD indicated that the IFAD Washington liaison office also acted as the INSTRAW liaison office in Washington.

IV. INSTRAW FOCAL POINTS

53. In considering item 6 of its agenda, the Board had before it a document entitled "INSTRAW focal points" (INSTRAW/BT/1993/R.3 and INSTRAW/BT/1993/R.3/Add.1).

54. In introducing the item, the Director recalled the Board's request, made at its twelfth session, for a separate agenda item on focal points. She mentioned the action taken by the Institute in 1992 and the resulting information which was reflected in the document. She also brought to the attention of the Board the nomination of three focal points, in the Netherlands, Uruguay and Zimbabwe, for its approval.

55. The focal point from Italy (AIDOS) expressed appreciation for the importance given by the Board to the issue. She congratulated INSTRAW for having developed a new set of criteria for the selection of new focal points. She analysed the different mandates and the work activities of the existing INSTRAW focal points. She explained in great detail the substantive work of AIDOS and mentioned that a number of projects and activities of INSTRAW had been undertaken in close collaboration with AIDOS. She informed the Board of the efforts of AIDOS in securing funds for the production of training materials on women, water supply and sanitation and on women and new and renewable sources of energy, and for the ongoing project on the development of communication support materials. She highlighted the importance of keeping the donor Governments informed of the Institute's ongoing activities. She also stressed the need for INSTRAW to participate in certain fund-raising meetings and added that INSTRAW

should make more use of European focal points, such as AIDOS, in fund-raising activities in the region.

56. Many suggestions were put forward concerning the criteria applied in the process of selecting and approving nominations for INSTRAW focal points, their role and functions. The ex-officio member from ESCAP commented that the existing criteria of Governments officially nominating a focal point could be a disadvantage. He suggested that INSTRAW consider the possibility of identifying an organization or institution as a potential focal point which could then approach its Government for formal nomination to INSTRAW. He also supported the concept of widening the Institute's network system by strengthening its correspondence with other relevant entities or agencies other than the nominated focal points. The role of regional commissions relating to identification and selection of focal points was discussed.

57. A member of the Board suggested that in large countries it might be more effective to have, as additional focal points, some academic institutions or centres in the different regions of the country, working in close coordination with the INSTRAW focal point in order to assist it in the implementation of the Institute's activities and to act as active machineries for fund-raising.

58. The Board agreed that the focal points should be informed of the results of the sessions of INSTRAW Board of Trustees, since most were unable to attend.

59. The concept of differentiating and categorizing the focal points according to developed and developing countries was debated at length. It was suggested that close cooperation and coordination should be encouraged among INSTRAW focal points in developed and developing countries to support the activation of new focal points and the maintenance of the established ones.

60. The ex-officio member from ECLAC recalled the outcome of the first Strategic Planning Committee meeting, in September 1991 - namely:

(a) The proposal to maintain the existing focal points and provision of financial support to strengthen their activities;

(b) Recognition of the diversity of the roles, functions and mandates of the different focal points, emphasizing that while some could assist in obtaining funds for the Institute, others (especially those in developing countries) might need financial support from the Institute to maintain their existence;

(c) The importance of establishing and/or strengthening interaction among the focal points of the various regions.

61. It was suggested that the issue of providing financial support to focal points should be discussed at the forthcoming Strategic Planning Committee meeting, scheduled to take place in June 1993, for a decision by the Board at its next session. However, the Director recalled that INSTRAW was not a funding agency. She further explained that in many instances, requests for financial assistance could not be accommodated and hence those requests were usually referred to agencies that were able to provide such assistance.

62. A suggestion was put forth that, when appropriate, the Institute could be represented at regional or international meetings either by a member of the Board or a focal point when an INSTRAW staff member was unable to be present.

63. The representative of the focal point from the Dominican Republic summarized the activities carried out by her office in collaboration with INSTRAW during 1992. She acknowledged the efforts of the Institute to maintain a close working relationship with the focal point and expressed the hope that that would result in more effective collaborative programmes in the future.

64. A Board member announced the recent creation of a national institute for the promotion and the advancement of women in her country. She also stated that a nomination for a focal point in Morocco would be submitted shortly to INSTRAW.

65. After an extensive discussion concerning nominations of the Network of Women in Development Agencies in the Netherlands, Departamento de Sociologia in Uruguay, and Zimbabwe Women's Resource Center and Network as new focal points of INSTRAW, the Board agreed to accept the nominations from the Netherlands and Zimbabwe and to delegate to the Strategic Planning Committee the decision concerning the nomination from Uruguay, after examination of the information concerning the nature, role and function of the Department of Sociology, which had not been received in time to be presented to the Board at its thirteenth session.

V. ACTIVITIES RELATIVE TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

66. In considering item 7 of the agenda, the Board had before it a note prepared by the INSTRAW secretariat (INSTRAW/BT/1993/INF.1).

67. The Director described the Institute's involvement in the preparations for the International Year of the Family and informed the Board on the participation of the Institute in the upcoming inter-agency meeting scheduled for March, in Vienna. She requested the Board to indicate to the Institute whether it wished INSTRAW to participate in other activities than those already described.

68. Several Board members expressed concern at the varying conceptualizations of the family and cautioned against reinforcing models not universally accepted and possibly detrimental to women. Most members agreed that it was important for INSTRAW to participate in activities leading up to the observance of the Year in order to ensure that the role of women and problems associated with it were given appropriate attention. The notions of equal sharing of responsibilities, the recognition of women's rights within the family, the elimination of discriminatory practices and the establishment of a new social contract should be emphasized.

69. The Board agreed that INSTRAW would, in addition to participating in inter-agency meetings, take part in meetings to present the results of the time-use studies currently being conducted to highlight women's activities and INSTRAW's accomplishments in the field.

70. The representative of the Secretary-General, in her capacity as Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, pointed out that the Division tried to draw attention to the existence of various types of families. Emphasis should be given to the equal rights of women within the family, and the responsibility and equalit of the different members of the family should be stressed. She pointed out that the Division was preparing contributions on gender issues for the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Year of the Family, and the World Conference on Population and Development.

71. The representative of ESCAP informed the Board of the four regional preparatory meetings for the International Year of the Family and suggested that INSTRAW should prepare a short paper analysing the various definitions of "family", stressing women's issues. The paper could be distributed at those meetings, thus giving the Institute visibility. After much discussion, the Board decided that such a paper should not be prepared, in view of the fact that INSTRAW was already preparing contributions to the year, within its approved programme, on time-use and the valuation of unpaid work.

72. The Board also agreed that INSTRAW should participate and contribute to the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994, given its relevance to issues concerning women in development.

VI. COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

73. In considering item 8 of the agenda, the Board had before it a note from the INSTRAW secretariat (INSTRAW/BT/1993/INF.2).

74. The Director highlighted the importance of collaboration with the regional commissions and the need for coordinating parallel planning for the Conference. She informed the Board that the regional commissions would be having regional preparatory meetings prior to the Fourth World Conference on Women in order to identify regional trends, priorities, obstacles and innovative suggestions for future action. She also pointed out that the Board might consider rescheduling the preparation of the Institute's programme budget in order to align it with the planning and budgeting process of the regional commissions, which could allow for closer programme cooperation. She requested the regional commissions to present their planned activities for the Fourth World Conference on Women so that the Board could be appraised of possible joint activities.

75. The ex-officio representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) explained that some of the priority goals for the region were to strengthen women's leadership role at all levels in the region, and equal political participation. She emphasized that INSTRAW could cooperate with the regional commissions at the regional preparatory meetings for the forthcoming World Conference on Women and in the field of statistics. She referred to INSTRAW's participation in the meeting organized by ECLAC in September 1992 to explore the areas of collaborative work in preparation for the World Conference. She also mentioned the gender training survey that was to be undertaken by INSTRAW and UNIFEM in the Latin American region, which would be an important contribution to the regional conference.

76. The ex-officio representative for the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) explained that the Commission did not have a programme on either women's or social issues or the budget to undertake any relevant activities since they did not fall within the Commission's mandate. However, steps were being taken to obtain a mandate specific to the Fourth World Conference on Women at ECE's upcoming annual session in April, and she said that INSTRAW would be informed of the actions taken. She urged substantive cooperation with INSTRAW. She mentioned that issues on environment were a priority in the region and requested information as to how the work that INSTRAW was doing in that area could be integrated into their work. In response, the Director detailed some of INSTRAW's work in the area of environment.

77. The ex-officio representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) brought to the attention of the Board the positive collaboration of INSTRAW with that regional commission. She referred to INSTRAW's collaboration with ECA in the UNDP-funded project on women's contributions in the informal sector and the training seminars on women and new and renewable sources of energy. Referring to the regional preparatory activities for the Fourth World Conference on Women, the representative informed the Board that issues relating to environment and entrepreneurship were among the priority areas for discussion during the Regional Preparatory Conference, to be held in Dakar, Senegal, in November 1994. In view of INSTRAW's work in those areas, ECA would expect INSTRAW to contribute to the Conference's documentation. She also informed the Board that ECA was organizing an inter-agency meeting in March 1993 at its headquarters for the preparation of the Preparatory Conference and looked forward to INSTRAW's active participation.

78. The ex-officio representative from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) described the planned activities that the Commission was to undertake prior to the Conference. He explained in detail the preparatory meeting scheduled to take place in Indonesia in 1994 and referred to the document which outlined the preparation for the second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, scheduled for May 1994. He suggested that INSTRAW could participate in an exhibit that was being planned by ESCAP in cooperation with the regional non-governmental organizations and also mentioned other areas of participation.

79. The Board members discussed the possible areas of cooperation with the regional commissions. It was emphasized by the Board that INSTRAW should contribute to the Conference in areas of established expertise.

80. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicated its willingness to cooperate with INSTRAW in the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women and indicated that the modalities of such cooperation had still to be defined. She underlined that INSTRAW's training and research activities had inherent advocacy functions. Therefore in terms of INSTRAW's participation in the preparatory regional conferences for the World Conference, INSTRAW might consider preparing, for instance, a state-of-the-art publication on gender-disaggregated statistics and indicators, explaining the importance of such information and the need for Governments and United Nations agencies to allocate resources accordingly. She suggested that INSTRAW could also encourage the inclusion and strengthening of gender issues in regional and subregional training institutions.

81. The representative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) pointed out that both INSTRAW and UNIFEM had mandates and commitments for the advancement of women world wide. She indicated that INSTRAW and UNIFEM were already cooperating in various programmes of common concern such as the inter-agency survey on gender training. Furthermore, she stated that cooperation among United Nations agencies should be made more systematic.

82. The Board agreed that the cooperation with the regional commissions should be strengthened for the implementation of joint programme activities, with particular emphasis on the preparation of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Board requested the secretariat of INSTRAW to prepare specific proposals on how that cooperation could be elaborated and to submit that proposal to the Strategic Planning Committee, scheduled to meet in June 1993, for submission for approval by the Board at its fourteenth session.

VII. OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE INSTITUTE

83. Under the agenda item, the Director requested the Board's advice on two issues: the request for additional funds, up to $10,000, for the ongoing project on the training needs of women farmers in transitional Eastern European countries, to enable it to complete its research phase, which included a training needs assessment; and flexibility for INSTRAW to make readjustments within its existing budget to accommodate the financial implications of the Institute's participation and attendance at the preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

84. After a substantial discussion, the Board members approved the provision of additional funds for the project in question and gave the Director the flexibility to readjust the Institute's budget in order to provide for INSTRAW's substantive contribution and active participation in the preparation of the regional preparatory meetings for the holding of the World Conference on Women.

85. It was asked how the Institute had responded to the recommendations in the evaluation of the Institute commissioned by three Nordic countries, especially those on how to improve the Institute's profile and visibility. The Director acknowledged the efforts undertaken by INSTRAW towards achieving that goal, particularly the efforts made to sharpen the focus of the Institute's work programme in research and training.

86. The proposal of producing an annual report designed to promote the work and activities of INSTRAW, especially to donor countries and agencies, received unanimous support from members of the Board. It was agreed that the report should be attractive in presentation and different from regular United Nations documents; substantive, so as to reflect the activities undertaken by the Institute, including future, planned activities; and prepared by a communications specialist. To that end, the ex-officio member from ECLAC mentioned that INSTRAW should take advantage of the expertise available in the United Nations system in the writing of such reports. It was proposed that the budgetary and other logistical implications for producing such a report should be explored and further discussed during the forthcoming Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

87. The Board made a proposal that INSTRAW should elaborate a research and training programme in the context of women-in-development to be discussed by the Strategic Planning Committee at its forthcoming meeting in June 1993. It recommended that mechanisms for closer relations should be established between the Strategic Planning Committee and the members of the Board. It further recommended that a report should be prepared on the results of the Committee meeting in order to identify follow-up actions to be undertaken.

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD ON ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION

88. At its eighth meeting, on 19 February 1993, the Board adopted the report on its thirteenth session (INSTRAW/BT/1993/R.4 and Add.1-3).

IX. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

89. The thirteenth session of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW was held at the Institute's headquarters from 15 to 19 February 1993. The Board held eight meetings.

90. The session was opened by Pilar Escario Rodriguez-Spiteri, in her capacity as Presiding Officer of the Board. In welcoming the members of the Board she highlighted some of the important activities of the past year such as INSTRAW's participation in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the interregional workshop organized in Beijing on the role of women in environmentally sound and sustainable development. She also referred to the work that the Board had before it, such as the Institute's participation in activities to mark the International Year of the Family in 1994 and the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995. Finally, she commended the Institute for having widened its networking activities.

91. An opening statement was made by the representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic. He reiterated his Government's strong support for INSTRAW, noting that the Institute was the only United Nations world headquarters in the Latin American region. He stressed the work of the Institute and of the United Nations in promoting the rights of women, who, world wide, had demonstrated leadership in defending human rights. He mentioned some Dominican women who since pre-Columbian times had helped to shape and establish democracy in the host country. He concluded by expressing his wish that INSTRAW continue to contribute to improving the situation of women since, ultimately, that benefited society as a whole.

92. A welcoming statement was read on behalf of the Minister of Education of the Dominican Republic and ex-officio member of the Board representing the host country, Jacqueline Malagón. She noted with satisfaction INSTRAW's contribution to the advancement of women and stressed that the Dominican Government was honoured to have the Institute's headquarters in its country. She stressed the

Dominican Government's willingness to continue supporting the Institute in its significant work.

93. The Representative of the Secretary-General conveyed the Secretary-General's appreciation for the Dominican Government's support to INSTRAW. She also commended the Institute and its Board for its work. The recent appointment of an INSTRAW Board member as Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women was testimony of the esteem of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the INSTRAW Board of Trustees.

94. She also informed the Board on the message of the Secretary-General on the restructuring process within the United Nations system which sought to make the Secretariat a more rational, functional and efficient entity, through different structural and administrative measures, inter alia, the possible merging of INSTRAW and UNIFEM and changes of headquarter sites of some of the agencies involved with women in development. She was optimistic that in the long term the restructuring would result in a more effective group of programmes and activities for the advancement of women.

95. She referred then to the preparations already under way for the holding of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the documents to be prepared in conformity with resolution 36/8 of the Commission on the Status of Women. She concluded by saying that INSTRAW, UNIFEM, the Division for the Advancement of Women, and the rest of the system should strengthen their links to make the World Conference a success so as to eliminate discrimination against women by the year 2000, as recommended in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

96. The Director of INSTRAW made a welcoming statement in which she referred to the ongoing restructuring process currently being undertaken within the United Nations Secretariat. She expressed the view that it was important for the Board to examine the ways in which the Institute could most effectively carry out its mandate within that process. She recalled an earlier external evaluation which resulted in sharpening the focus of INSTRAW's programmes and in establishing more collaborative arrangements both within and outside the United Nations.

B. Attendance

97. The following members of the Board attended the session: Ihsan Abdalla Algabshawi (Sudan), Fátima Benslimane Hassar (Morocco), Pilar Escario Rodriguez-Spiteri (Spain), Aida González Martínez (Mexico), Gule Afruz Mahbub (Bangladesh), Amara Pongsapich (Thailand), Els Postel-Coster (Netherlands), Gail Saunders (Bahamas), Renata Siemienska-Zochowska (Poland). Kristin Tornes (Norway) was unable to attend. Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella (United Republic of Tanzania) was appointed by the Secretary-General as the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, as of 1 January 1993.

98. The following ex-officio members of the Board also attended: the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women (representing the Secretary-General), representatives of ECE, ESCAP, ECA, and ECLAC, the representative of the Dominican Republic, the host country of the Institute, and the Director of the Institute.

99. Representatives of UNDP and UNIFEM attended the session.

100. A representative of FAO also attended the session.

101. A representative of IFAD attended the session.

102. Observers for the approved INSTRAW focal points of the Dominican Republic and Italy also attended the session.

C. Election of officers

103. At its first meeting, in accordance with rule 7 of its rules of procedure, the Board elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Renata Siemienska-Zochowska (Poland)

Vice-President: Fatima Benslimane Hassar (Morocco)

Rapporteur: Gail Saunders (Bahamas)

D. Agenda

104. At its first meeting, the Board decided to split the item "Other matters related to the functioning of the Institute" of the provisional agenda into "Matters related to the future functioning of INSTRAW" and "Other matters related to the Institute". The Board adopted the following agenda as amended for its thirteenth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. Matters related to the future functioning of INSTRAW.
5. Implementation of the work programme for 1992: progress report on the Institute.
6. INSTRAW focal points.
7. Activities relative to the International Year of the Family.
8. Cooperation with regional commissions for the Fourth World Conference on Women.
9. Other matters related to the Institute.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.

Notes

1/ Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976.

2/ Resolution 26, adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

3/ Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (LX), para. 3 (a).

4/ General Assembly resolution 39/125, annex, para. 1.